

CASE STUDY

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT OVER LAND

Who should control Jerusalem?



Jerusalem checkpoints deepen
Palestinian resentment.

Conflict between Jews and Arabs over land and statehood in Southwest Asia disrupts life in the region. One aspect of this conflict centers around Jerusalem. The city is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Control of Jerusalem is a deeply emotional issue that affects the region's politics and population.

Control of Jerusalem

After World War II, the UN recommended that the city of Jerusalem become an international city. It would be under the control of an international body rather than an Arab or a Jewish government. But by the end of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, Jerusalem was divided between Arabs and Israelis. Arabs took the Old City and East Jerusalem located in the West Bank sector. The Israelis took control of West Jerusalem. During the Six-Day War of 1967, the Israelis captured the rest of Jerusalem.

Control of the holy sites within the Old City also became an issue. Although the Israelis captured the city, the Muslims retained control of

their holy site, *Haram ash-Sharif*, called the Temple Mount by the Jews.

As the Israelis gained control of the entire city of Jerusalem, they began adding Arab lands to the city. They placed Jewish settlements on those lands. Palestinian Arabs fled or were forced to leave the settlement lands. The Palestinians in Jerusalem and elsewhere have maintained they should have the "right of return" to the lands in Israel. Their claims are supported by United Nations Resolution 194, which states that Palestinians have the "right of return" to former homelands.



1978
**Camp David
Accords** set
up Palestinian
self-rule in
West Bank.



1940 ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT 1960

1970

1980

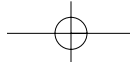
1990

2000

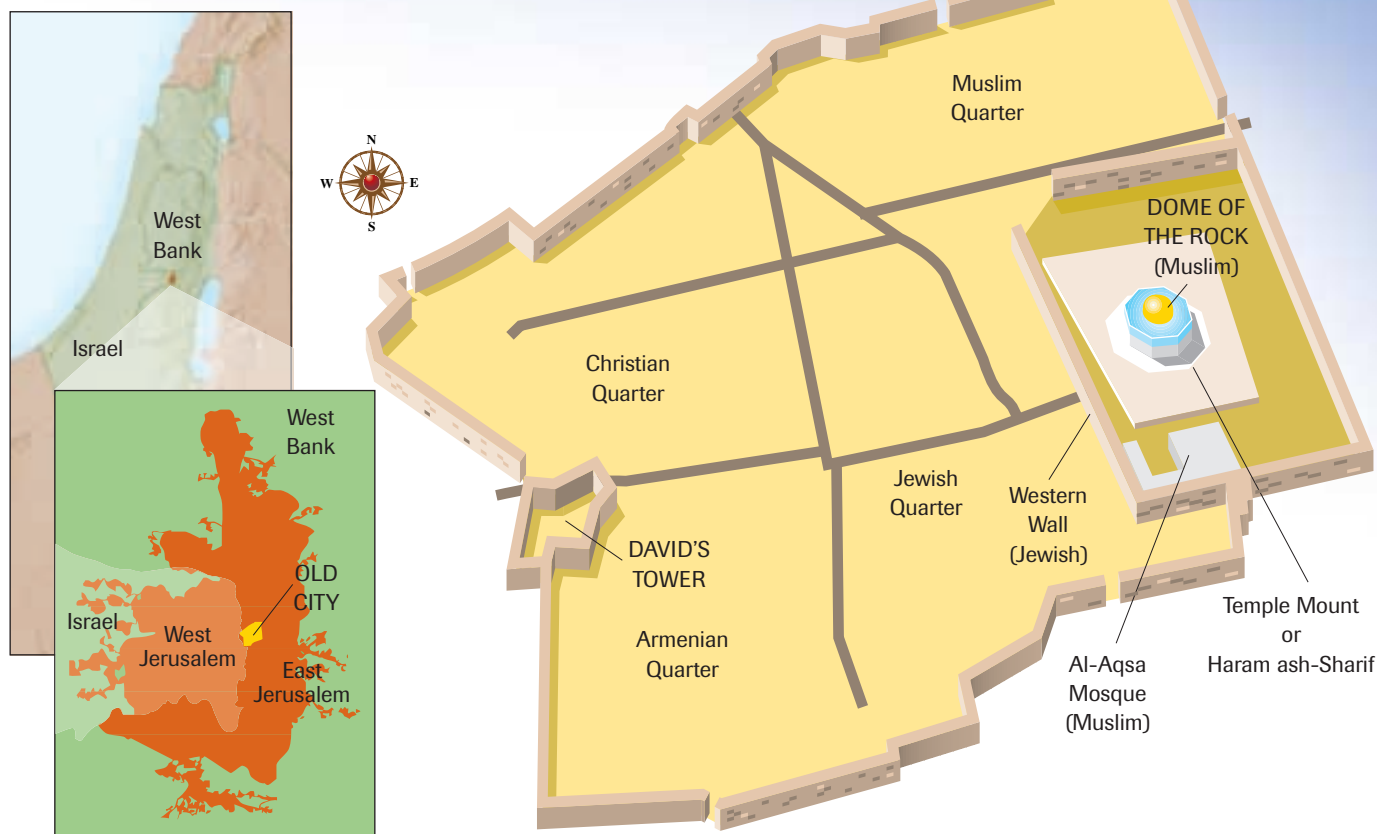
1948
The **State of Israel** is
created; war with Arabs
follows immediately.

1967
Israel takes control of
Jerusalem, West Bank,
and Gaza Strip at the
end of the Six-Day War.

1993
Oslo Accords allow
Palestinians to establish
self-rule in West Bank
and Gaza Strip.



Jerusalem: The Old City



Proposed Solutions to the Conflict

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE **D**

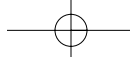
The emotional and political issue of who should control Jerusalem makes it a very difficult diplomatic problem to solve. Because both the Israelis and the Palestinians claim Jerusalem as the capital of their nation, neither is willing to give it up to the other group. The following solutions have been proposed for control of Jerusalem:

- Palestinians retain control of certain parts of East Jerusalem while Israel annexes several Jewish settlements near Jerusalem. This would enlarge Israeli territory in the area.
- Israel retains control of West Jerusalem and the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, but the Palestinians control the Old City and East Jerusalem. This is basically how the city is controlled today.
- Palestinians control the Temple Mount but give up the right of return to Israel. The Israeli government fears that the sheer numbers of returning Palestinians would overwhelm Israel.
- An international agency has control of all holy sites.

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE **C**

On the following pages, you will find primary sources that present different views on the control of the city of Jerusalem. Use them to help you form an opinion about the best way to solve the problem.



CASE STUDY

PROJECT

Primary sources A, B, C, D, and E on these two pages offer differing views about control of Jerusalem. Use these resources along with your own research to prepare a peace conference that presents both Israeli and Arab solutions for control of Jerusalem.



RESEARCH LINKS
CLASSZONE.COM

A Peace Conference

Suggested Steps

1. Choose one of the proposed solutions to the control of Jerusalem to investigate.
2. Use online and print resources to research the positions of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans.
3. Create visuals—maps, charts, graphs—to make the conference discussion clearer.
4. Select two or three representatives from each group to take part in the conference. The rest of the class should act as journalists, take notes on the presentation, and be prepared to ask questions of the representatives.

Materials and Supplies

- Posterboard
- Markers
- Reference books, newspapers, and magazines
- Video monitor with VCR or DVD capability
- Computer with Internet access/printer

PRIMARY SOURCE A

United Nations Resolution UN Resolution 181, adopted on November 29, 1947, declared that Jerusalem would become an international city with both Jewish and Muslim inhabitants.

Part III City of Jerusalem

A. The City of Jerusalem shall be established as a *corpus separatum* [separate body] under a special international regime and shall be administered by the United Nations. The Trusteeship Council shall be designated to discharge the responsibilities of the Administering Authority on behalf of the United Nations.

* * *

C. 1(a) To protect and to preserve the unique spiritual and religious interests located in the city of the three great monotheistic faiths throughout the world, Christian, Jewish, and Moslem; to this end to ensure that order and peace, and especially religious peace, reign in Jerusalem.

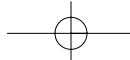
(b) To foster co-operation among all the inhabitants of the city in their own interests as well as in order to encourage and support the peaceful development of the mutual relations between the two Palestinian peoples throughout the Holy Land.

PRIMARY SOURCE B

Official Statement This statement was made December 31, 2000, by the Palestinian cabinet, which opposed President Clinton's plan for resolving the issue of "right of return" and control of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian leadership confirms its commitment to the full right of refugees to return to their lands and homes in accordance with Resolution 194, the cabinet said, referring to the United Nations resolution adopted in December 1948.

Our people will never, under any circumstances, concede one inch from our Jerusalem and our Islamic and Christian holy sites.



PRIMARY SOURCE C

Personal Observation Yossi Sarid, head of the Meretz party in Israel, is a leading advocate of peace in the region. On December 31, 2000, he expressed his opinion on the central issue of the Palestinian right of return.

There is only one issue that could, God forbid, make this [Clinton peace proposal] fail, and that is the right of return. It is important for the Palestinians to understand and internalize this. Realization of the right of return means—how should I put it?—the suicide of Israel.

If we open the gates to hundreds of thousands of refugees, that means the state of Israel as created by the Zionist dream will be bankrupt.

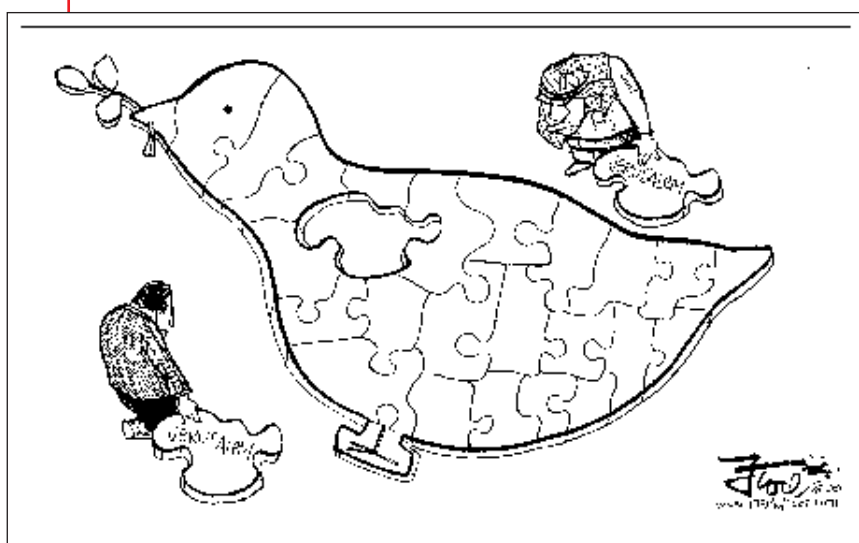
PRIMARY SOURCE D

Editorial Commentary Kenneth L. Woodward, religion editor for Newsweek magazine, expresses an opinion about why any solution for the Jerusalem question is one that is important not just to Jews and Arabs but to millions of others.

Thus, for billions of believers who may never see it, Jerusalem remains a city central to their sacred geography. This is why the future of the city is not just another Middle Eastern conflict between Arabs and Jews. . . . Both Israel and the Palestinians have real roots in the Holy Land, and both want to claim Jerusalem as their capital. The United Nations, supported by the Vatican, would have the city internationalized under its jurisdiction. The issue, however, is not merely one of geopolitics. There will be no enduring solution to the question of Jerusalem that does not respect the attachments to the city formed by each faith. Whoever controls Jerusalem will always be constrained by the meaning the city has acquired over three millenniums of wars, conquest and prophetic utterance.

PRIMARY SOURCE E

Political Cartoon Mark Fiore drew this cartoon about the situation in Jerusalem. What message is the cartoonist sending about prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians?



PROJECT Checklist

Have I . . .

- ✓ looked at all sides of the issue?
- ✓ identified the key players and their points of view?
- ✓ created informative visuals that make my presentation clear and interesting?
- ✓ practiced the delivery of my presentation?